

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
MINUTES

The meeting of the Natural Resources Board was held Wednesday, May 23, 2001, in Ballroom One at Park Inn International, 1009 West Park Avenue, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. for action on Items 1 and 2. The meeting was recessed at 8:40 a.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Trygve A. Solberg, Chair
Gerald W. O'Brien, Secretary
Herbert F. Behnke
Howard D. Poulson
Catherine Stepp

ABSENT: James E. Tiefenthaler, Jr., Vice Chair
Stephen D. Willett

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Minutes to be approved.
- 1.A. Full Board Minutes of April 25, 2001.

Mr. Poulson MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien approval of the Full Board Minutes of April 25, 2001 as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

Committee of the Whole Minutes of April 25, 2001.

Mr. Poulson MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien approval of the Committee of the Whole Minutes of April 25, 2001 as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

- 1.B. Agenda for May 23, 2001.

Secretary Bazzell asked that the following changes be made to the agenda: Item 3.D (Donation from the Bong Naturalist Association) be deferred to June; Item 3.E (Approval of the joint Cooperative Management Plan for the Lower St. National Scenic Riverway) be deferred to June; Item 6.B.3 (Adoption of Order WM-02-01 proposed wildlife regulation changes resulting from the 2001 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings) be moved to Item 3.H under Committee of the Whole; Item 3.H be moved to 3.I.

With those changes, Mr. Poulson MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, approval of the agenda for May 23, 2001. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

2. Ratification of acts of the Department Secretary.
- 2.A. Real estate transactions.

Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. Poulson, approval of the real estate transactions, as printed. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

3. Committee of the Whole.

3.A. Citizen Participation.

This item was presented during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

3.B. DONATION - \$792,700 from the Friends of Crex, Inc., for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Education Center to be used to help plan, design and construct the proposed 8,474 gross square feet center for the Wildlife Education Program.

Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. Poulson, acceptance of the donation. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

3.C. DONATION - \$10,000 from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation for sponsorship of the "Into the Outdoors" educational television show.

Ms. Stepp MOVED, seconded by Mr. Poulson, acceptance of the donation. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

3.D. DONATION - \$103,495 from the Bong Naturalist Association for construction of a solarium addition to the Molinaro isitor Center and for designing, creating new and updating educational exhibits.

This item was deferred to June 2001.

3.E. Approval of the joint Cooperative Management Plan for the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

This item was deferred to a future 2001.

3.F. INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Update of Land Legacy Study.

This item was presented during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

3.G. INFORMATIONAL ITEM – Update of Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Master Plan.

This item was presented during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

3.H. Approval of Stewardship 2000 Expenditure Plan for the 2001 – 2003 Biennium

Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Ms. Stepp that the Board approve the Stewardship 2000 Expenditure Plan for the 2001 – 2003 Biennium, as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

3.I. Retirement resolutions.

1. Norman Bickford.
2. Thomas Gall.
3. Lynn Jameson.
4. Anne Kriewald.
5. Jeanne Witt.

This item was presented during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Mr. Poulson MOVED, seconded by Mr. Behnke, approval of the retirement resolutions, as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mt. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

4. Board Members' Matters.

This item was presented during the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

5. Special Committees' Reports.
None.

6. Operating Committees.

- 6.A. Air, Waste and Water/Enforcement Committee.

- 6.A.1. Minutes of April 24, 2001.

The Minutes were approved as written.

- 6.A.2. Adoption of Order WT-10-01 - creation of NR 199, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to proposed municipal flood control and riparian restoration grant program.

The Committee recommended and Ms. Stepp MOVED, seconded by Mr. Poulson, adoption of Order WT-10-01 - creation of NR 199, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to proposed municipal flood control and riparian restoration grant program, as presented. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

- 6.A.3. Adoption of Order RR-31-00 – revision of Chapters NR 716, 726, 749, 811 and 812, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to replacing requirements for recording of groundwater use restrictions for properties granted closure with exceedances of Chapter NR 140 groundwater enforcement standards with a requirement for listing on the GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites.

We had one public appearance on this and after hearing the gentleman's points, we have amended page 23 of the Green Sheet Packet, Item g. to change to read as follows: A copy of the letters sent by the responsible party to all landowners within or partially within the contaminated site's boundaries whose property has groundwater contamination that exceeds ch. NR 140 enforcement standards at the time that closure is requested. All letters that are sent to satisfy the requirements of this subdivision paragraph shall include the department's fact sheet describing the use of natural attenuation as a final remedy, and shall contain, at a minimum, the standard provisions in Appendix A, and written documentation shall be submitted to the department to prove that the letters were delivered via certified mail, return receipt requested, or priority mail with signature confirmation. If letters are sent via priority mail with signature confirmation, the responsible party may use the signature waiver option if the responsible party has reason to believe that the landowner may refuse to sign for the letter.

The Committee recommended and Ms. Stepp MOVED, seconded by Mr. Behnke, adoption of Order RR-31-00 – revision of Chapters NR 716, 726, 749, 811 and 812, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to replacing requirements for recording of groundwater use restrictions for properties granted closure with exceedances of Chapter NR 140 groundwater enforcement standards with a requirement for listing on the GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites, as amended the motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

- 6.A.4. Authorization for hearing on revision of Chapter NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to establishing drinking water standards for radionuclides.

The Committee recommended and Ms. Stepp MOVED, seconded by Mr. Poulson that the Board authorize public hearing.

Mr. Poulson: Do you remember if this is the one that Waukesha appeared before us on and later this week we received a letter stating they were going to work with this?

Chairman Solberg: Yes it is.

The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

- 6.B. Land, Management Recreation and Fisheries/Wildlife Committee.

6.B1. Minutes of April 24, 2001.

The Minutes were approved as written.

6.B.2. Approval of Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment for the Muddy Creek Wildlife Area Boundary Expansion Area in Dunn County.

There are two parts to this. The first part is amending the project boundary of the Muddy Creek area to include a portion of the Old Belt Lake area. At one time, about five or six years ago, Old Belt Lake was considered and recommended as a separate project and that subsequently died. Since it connected with Muddy Creek and there is an opportunity to acquire some of the property for our purposes, which will come at a later point in this meeting, this boundary needs to be adjusted.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien that the Board approve the Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment for the Muddy Creek Wildlife Area Boundary Expansion Area in Dunn County. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.3 This item was disposed to 3.H.

6.B.4. Adoption of Order WM-02-01 – proposed wildlife regulation changes resulting from the 2001 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings.

The Committee heard and accepted an amendment to retain the word recreational in the Natural Resources Board Policy on furbearers, Section 1.

The Committee accepted this amendment, recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, adoption of Order WM-02-01 – proposed wildlife regulation changes resulting from the 2001 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings, as amended. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.5. Adoption of Order FH-07-01 – proposed fishing regulation changes resulting from the 2001 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings.

The Committee heard and accepted an amendment to this to amend this order as follows: 1) Section 19 - The 10-year sunset on the catch and release regulations for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass from the Yellowstone River, Lafayette County, is reduced to a 5-year sunset to accommodate public comments and concerns raised at the hearing related to confusion over the duration of the sunset. 2) Section 53 - Adoption of the fish refuge on the Yellow River is deferred to accommodate the development of a citizen-initiated "sturgeon guard" to address public comments at the hearing related to the loss of shore fishing opportunities for kids in the spring. The rule is modified to allow the Department to put the fish refuge into effect without additional hearings at any time simply by posting if the sturgeon guard is not effective at deterring the ongoing harassment of spawning sturgeon in the area. Conversely, the refuge will not be in effect if it is not posted. 3) Change the effective date of Section 2 (sturgeon spearing rules) to be December 31, 2001 to include the upcoming season in February 2002.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, adoption of Order FH-07-01 – proposed fishing regulation changes resulting from the 2001 Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings, as amended. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.6. Adoption of Order FH-08-01 – revision of Chapters NR 20, 21 and 50, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to sport and commercial fishing on the inland, outlying and boundary waters.

The Committee recommended and Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, adoption of Order FH-08-01 – revision of Chapters NR 20, 21 and 50, Wis. Adm. Code, pertaining to sport and commercial fishing on the inland, outlying and boundary waters. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.7. Authorization for hearing on revision of Chapter NR 10, Wis. Adm. Code, to establish the 2001 migratory game bird season.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, that the Board authorize public hearing as recommended by the Department. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.8. Kickapoo River Wildlife Area land acquisition – Crawford County.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, that the Board approve the purchase of 345 acres from Klekamp Trust for \$345,000 for the Kickapoo Wildlife Area in Crawford County. Also, modification of 70 acres of the boundary. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.9. Borst Valley Wildlife Area land acquisition – Trempealeau County.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, that the Board approve the purchase of 145 acres from The Conservation Fund for \$145,000 for the Borst Valley Wildlife Area in Trempealeau County.

Mr. Poulson: Are those lands outside the boundary agricultural?

Mr. Steffes: They have about 28 acres of cropland.

The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.10. Statewide Protection land acquisition and project boundary modification – Sheboygan County.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, that the Board approve the purchase of 110.8 acres from Windway Capitol Corporation Lands for \$615,000 for the Statewide Streambank Protection Fee Program in Sheboygan County (Onion River). The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.11. Shawano Lake Fishery Area land acquisition - Shawano County.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, that the Board approve the purchase of 6.6 acres from Richard Herzfeldt and Thomas Herzfeldt for \$27,500 for the Shawano Lake Fishery Area in Shawano County.

Mr. Poulson: How long was this land owned by this individual?

Mr. Behnke: 27 years, I think it was an inheritance.

The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.12. Lower Wisconsin Scenic Riverway land acquisition – Dane County.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, that the Board approve the purchase of 82.26 acres from The Conservation Fund for \$210,000 for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway in Dane County. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.13. Lower Wisconsin Scenic Riverway land acquisition – Iowa County.

Mr. Steffes explained the land acquisition.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, that the Board approve the purchase of 425 acres from The Conservation Fund for \$873,375 for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway in Iowa County. The property includes 158 acres out of the project boundary (88 acres for trade use and 70 acres proposed as addition to the project). As a second phase of this transaction, the Department has obtained an option from Cliff Schneider and James Walsh for 94 acres of land in the project. That land, valued at \$94,000, will be traded to the Department for 88 acres valued at \$192,000 from The Conservation Fund's parcel. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

6.B.14. Muddy Creek Wildlife Area land acquisition fee title and easement – Dunn County.

Item 6.B.14 relates to 6.B.2 where we adopted today a boundary expansion of the Muddy Creek Wildlife area. I would like to introduce the grantor of this property, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Harrison.

Mr. Harrison: It has been more of a pleasure working with the Department in the last go around we had. Thanks to Mr. Jim Kurtz and former Secretary George Meyer we have established a good working relationship. The people in the Eau Claire office have done a good job. The Department changed its focus from what it wanted to do before and what we wanted to do. We always wanted to preserve that lake area, this will guarantee that a major portion of that lake now will be preserved.

Chairman Solberg: As you can see, in the Acknowledgment of Gift to the Harrisons that they cut the price somewhat. We thank you for that. Thank you very much, both of you.

Mr. Behnke: For those of you that were here yesterday, at the Jim Falls Common Wildlife Area. At the time that the Tom Lawin Wildlife Area was acquired the old Elk Lake was considered a higher priority by the Department but because of the hostility involved in the landowners not wanting to sell their land and not being forced to do things they didn't want to do at that time the Jim Falls Wildlife Area now known as the Tom Lawin Wildlife Area was acquired at that time. That has been an excellent project and we had a lot of willing sellers over there. At the time, five or six years ago, it was very difficult for the Department or any of us, I think, to get any trust from these people in the old Elk Lake wildlife area. They were suspicious of what we were trying to do and, as a result of Jim Kurtz working with these people, he has established great relationship with these people. I think they know understand what it is that we are after. They don't feel threatened anymore, I don't believe, and as a result we are able to negotiate something that we will probably see more of in the future and that is buying development rights, continuing the Department practice and still allowing hunting, fishing and access to places like this. I think it is a breakthrough and a great development and again I can't thank Mr. and Mrs. Harrison enough for their cooperation and their relationship with the neighbors there and what is being done.

The Committee recommended and Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. Poulson, that the Board approve the purchase of 77 acres of land in fee and 365.74 acres of land in easement from E and L Harrison Enterprises, Incorporated for \$443,000 for the Muddy Creek Wildlife Area in Dunn County. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

7. Department Secretary's Matters.

7.A. DONATION - \$25,000 from the Lions Club for construction of a picnic shelter building to be built at the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Pike Lake Unit in Washington County.

Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, acceptance of the Kettle Moraine Lions Club and Hartford Lions Club donation. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

7.B. DONATION - \$5,150 from Don Whitburn to Council Grounds State Park for a memorial bench and to equip the park's nature center with displays and equipment for nature study.

Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Ms. Stepp, acceptance of the Don Whitburn to Council Grounds State Park donation. The motion was carried unanimously by those members present. (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

7.C Approval of revisions of Order WM-40-00 relating to Deer 2000.

Secretary Bazzell: The rule package is a significant legislative review and a number of suggestions by legislators with respect to the rule package. The package came back here. We had spent significant discussion with Board member Behnke and his committee along with members of the Deer 2000 Committee to work out a compromise a few weeks ago. Secretary Bazzell introduced Bill VanderZouwen as the presenter for the results of that agreement.

Bill VanderZouwen, Chief, Wildlife and Landscape Ecology. Mr. VanderZouwen reviewed the background of WM-40-00 with the Board, the process involving the public, Conservation Congress, meetings around the state and interest groups, study groups. As far as the snowmobiling controversy, we did have them at the local meetings. Unfortunately, we did not have snowmobiler participation in our study group. He stated they meet about 40 times, speaking to season framework. They debated, at great length, every option. The pros and cons, how it affects every interest group as they understood it. As a result of that debate, there were compromises they came up with in. Consideration of the snowmobilers, such as not going with the January 31st full closure, but going a littler earlier than that. Also, the idea of not going with a gun season over the Christmas week was popular, as that is a big week for snowmobilers. So, a concession was made there as well, to go earlier with this four day period, which this year ends on December 9th, the latest it would ever end would be December 15th as far as this mid December gun hunt. Some of the comments from the folks on the committee in discussing this were: they felt that hunters and snowmobilers could share the woods. They knew there were some concerns but thought that could be worked out. They thought that landowners and their guests should have a choice. In other words, not have the decision as to whether they could hunt on their land in mid December made by one interest group. They also felt that only a small percentage of lands, both public and private in the state, actually have a trail on them. And, it would be restricted to everyone in the state out of consideration for those few lands that do have trails and the certain problems that do exist out there. They felt that with the tradeoffs they gave, compromises they made, pending consideration of all folks in the state regardless of their interests and all landowners that this was a reasonable approach. Mr. VanderZouwen mentioned that not all of the Conservation Congress members, leaders that is, got their way with all this. Some would certainly prefer other things, maybe not having an October hunt for example. They tried to weigh all the interests and come up with recommendations that had the least conflict but no matter what you come up with there is some. The Senate and Assembly did review this, with recommendations being adopted in January. Mr. VanderZouwen indicated these can be reviewed in the Green Sheet Packet on pages seven through nine where the summaries of the Committees and the Legislation are indicated. Mr. Behnke had a committee, reacted to those, talked about it, involved quite a few folks from DNR that were involved in this process, involved leaders of the Deer 2000 public involvement process and made a recommendation. Mr. VanderZouwen proceeded to review those recommendations to the Board. Basically, in the archery season, the recommendation of the committee is to go to January 3rd every year. That is only a three day extension allowing hunting on the holiday, January 1st, which most people have off. Also, the archers wanted the four days, Monday through Thursday before the nine-day gun season. They also heard recommendations on adopting some of that for archery by both committees in the Legislature and the committee here recommendation is to have those four days but only in the units that have Zone T, which was what the Board approved for this year. Those units that have Zone T have the October hunt, archers will be allowed to hunt those four days, Monday through Thursday before the nine day gun season. This was a compromise. The four day December hunt, in January the Board approved having that only south of Highway Eight and, of course, there were a lot of concerns the need to have extra gun hunting opportunities, which there were none except in Zone T. So, they thought they would try north of Highway Eight to have an extended December hunt and evaluate what kinds of problems there were, what was significant and what the tradeoffs are. The committee is recommending that they continue to go with the mid December hunt south of Highway Eight on a permanent basis, north having a three year evaluation period. Things we could possibly evaluate, having the input of snowmobilers on this on what they would like to have evaluated. Looking at things such as how much harvest they actually get, what kind of hunter participation there is, what are the trail opening dates in the counties affected, are their delays and why. Afterward, they would evaluate how much is being gained or lost. Are they actually seeing significant problems and then decide if the rule should be made permanent or not. Also, Representative Johnsrud would like to see a 16-day season, he feels strongly about that. This was not taken to hearing, there is more support for this mid December hunt. They offered to him, if the Board so chooses, they could have this as an advisory question on the next spring hearing and see whether people indeed wish to have a 16 day season instead of the four day mid December hunt. There was some clarification needed regarding state parks. There is high use in October, not quite as much in December but Mr. VanderZouwen felt that all folks involved in this, the Conservation Congress, the Legislative Committee, DNR and both the Parks and Wildlife felt that the state parks should be exempt from the October hunt and December hunt but continue to allow the free tags to be used to increase the harvest in the state parks in Zone T units.

Mr. Behnke MOVED, seconded by Mr. O'Brien approval of revisions of Order WM-40-00 relating to Deer 2000.

Ms. Stepp: Mr. Behnke, on the committee that you had, were there snowmobilers on your committee or anyone representing snowmobilers?

Mr. Behnke: It was the land committee that met.

Ms. Stepp: What committee were you talking about?

Chairman Solberg: Deer 2000 is what was mentioned, wasn't it Mr. VanderZouwen?

Ms. Stepp: But, there weren't any snowmobilers represented at the state level?

Mr. VanderZouwen: There was no actual Deer 2000 gathering again, no actual committee outside of the Board meeting. Mr. Behnke did invite a few Deer 2000 organizers to be part of a discussion with input. That was because they have coordinating all of this public input all alone and were most familiar with it.

Ms. Stepp: Were there any snowmobilers involved?

Mr. Behnke: No, we did not invite any specific interest groups to this, we asked for the leadership of the Congress and the leadership of Deer 2000 for their advice.

Ms. Stepp: This whole Highway Eight thing started with me. I think it is important that I state what my thought process was here. That was to try it and see if we could work together with the snowmobiling public and with the hunters. I have also stated in the past that if a Zone T was required due to population control in those areas, then we would need to revisit that and say okay snowmobilers we have a problem with population now. But, I am very concerned about the three-year sunset clause because we are saying that it will be evaluated at the end of three years. What does that mean? You are going to evaluate on if the harvest was worth it or not, if I am correct. Who is going to be doing the evaluating? What other evaluations are there going to be? Who is going to be the one to determine if the snowmobilers are a detriment or not? That is a gray area.

Mr. Behnke: Evaluation will not only be on the result of the hunt but will also be on the conflict that it may or may not have caused. At the end of three years the Department will required to evaluate all of these factors and criticisms if there are any and bring it back to the Board and we know recommend an extension to this. If the Board doesn't approve they may not recommend an extension, they may say it didn't work so lets let it die. In three years time there would be another made decision on this.

Chairman Solberg: As I see this, the Department decides, being responsible to the hunting and the snowmobile public. I also voted for this, but we do have a deer problem and we do a lot of sunsets with other problems and other things that we look at. I live up there also and I can see both sides of the issue. But, we certainly have a deer problem up there and yet I understand the snowmobiling part of it. If we take a look at this for a certain period of time and see if the snowmobilers can live with it or if they can't live with it, if we are doing anything with the deer herd or if we are not doing anything with the deer herd.

Ms. Stepp: The December 15th date bothers me also. Now you are going further into the middle of the month, which made it actually worse. At first I was thinking it would be only a couple, four days within the first week or so into December, now it can go all the way into the 15th.

Mr. VanderZouwen: This was the initial proposal that it always be two weeks after the Thanksgiving weekend and it depends on the calendar. This year the earliest it could be, ending the ninth this year. The latest it could be is the 15th, depending on the year. Depending on the year, it is one day different.

Chairman Solberg: If this is past, it will be the ninth this year, the 10th next year, the 11th and then we revisit it.

Mr. VanderZouwen: Then it goes around and circles back to the ninth again.

Ms. Stepp: Then what is going to happen to the red light rally in Hurley? You get 4,000 snowmobilers up there the first week of December typically. This is another thing that I am concerned about. Ever since I made this amendment to the rule there have things coming at me from all directions, how can we possibly get north of Highway Eight back in there. That is how I am seeing this. I am very hesitant as to what this evaluation is going to show at the end of three years. I am reluctant on this, it has been one thing after another people trying to get this back in there somehow or another from one angle or another.

Mr. VanderZouwen: I think that we would be happy to hear advice from you folks and the snowmobilers on how to document their concerns too, making sure it is a fair evaluation.

Ms. Stepp: Have them on whatever type of group to have your evaluation. I would feel better if it weren't coming from staff. I would want the Snowmobilers Association to have definite input on this. All I am hearing is that they were not able to be a part of it. That bothers me.

Mr. Behnke: They did have an opportunity to be a part of Deer 2000, which they ignored.

Ms. Stepp: I have heard different stories from different people saying they are being told why are you bothering to come, this isn't an issue for you. That is all I have been hearing.

The motion was carried by a vote of four to one as follows: (Mr. Tiefenthaler and Mr. Willett were absent)

Yes

Mr. Behnke

Mr. O'Brien

Mr. Poulson

Chairman Solberg

Opposed

Ms. Stepp

Mr. Behnke: I have one other question which has nothing to do with what we just adopted. The WM-40 rules calls for subsequent inclusion of Earn-A-Buck season. After two years of being in Zone T and not coming to goal, and I have no problem with that in fact I support it. But I have recently seen a newspaper story that indicates that on the hunting license this coming year there will be a warning of some kind that there will be an Earn-A-Buck season. I don't know what warning there will be, how it will be worded, where it will be but I really don't know anything about it and would like some information. I spoke to Tom Hauge about this on the phone and let him know that I would be raising this question. I really don't understand why we would be putting this on the general deer hunting license when probably 80 percent of those buying a deer hunting license wouldn't be affected by it but all of a sudden will be confused, concerned and suspicious.

Mr. VanderZouwen: What we are trying to do through the ALIS System is to make everything as generic and simple as possible so that, if someone gets for example a Zone T tag it doesn't have to say what unit it is good for, they can use it in any Zone T unit. We tried to go one step farther, maybe we went to fast. The idea was that what it says you get your stub that you can wrap around a wire or a piece of string to put on the deer and now what it says instead of Zone T tag it says Zone T or Earn-A-Buck tag. So, for those years and those units that have Earn-A-Buck in the future that tag will be good whether it be for Zone T or Earn-A-Buck. So we don't have to reprogram it in again later or have separate tags for Earn-A-Buck or for Zone T. Some people are saying, what does this mean, there is Earn-A-Buck already. We can appreciate that as confusing.

Mr. Poulson: If I said to Mr. O'Brien, I got that tag on but we can't Earn-A-Buck, so I shot that buck. So, who will defend me in court.

Mr. O'Brien: It looks like you have that option for it.

Chairman Solberg: You have the buck tag already.

Mr. VanderZouwen: What you have here is really one square with two deer carcass tags here. You have your regular license tag that you would use. If you are hunting in a special T Zone unit this year

Chairman Solberg: You have got to buy the gun tag to get the Earn-A-Buck tag. You have to buy the buck tag.

Mr. VanderZouwen: We said that we would provide to all the deer hunters one free tag, valid in any Zone T unit and that is what that is on the left hand side of tag. It does say antlerless also, I hope that people read that area.

Mr. Behnke: Actually, what you are saying is that this would appear on everyone's license whether they have a hunters choice or a doe?

Mr. VanderZouwen: Yes, last year we gave everyone two squares, each for an antlerless deer. You could use those in any Zone T unit. This year, for economical reasons, we went to one square and we actually put two tags on one square. You can use that antlerless tag in any Zone T unit. All we did was make it smaller, making it one instead of two.

Mr. Behnke: That clarifies it. I didn't have any idea of what it consisted of.

Mr. VanderZouwen: Hopefully, it will also raise awareness that Earn-A-Buck could come down the road.

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The Board Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.